

REMARKS

Application summary

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (“the Board”) issued a decision in the present application on March 30, 2011 (“the Decision”). In the Decision, the Board affirmed rejections of claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21, 23-28, 30-38, 42-49, 51, 53-58, and 60-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard et al, US Patent 6,823,526 (“Howard”).

Applicants presently cancel claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21, 23-28, 30-38, 42-49, 51, 53-58, and 60-72 and add claims 73-117. The present amendments are filed together with a request for continued examination. Following entry of the present amendment, claims 73-117 will be pending.

The amendments and rejections are discussed below. The examiner is respectfully urged to reconsider the application and withdraw the rejections. Should the examiner have any questions or concerns that might be efficiently resolved by way of a telephonic interview, the examiner is invited to call applicants’ undersigned attorney, Jon M. Isaacson, at 206-332-1102.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Decision, the Board affirmed rejections of claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21, 23-28, 30-38, 42-49, 51, 53-58, and 60-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections or the findings of the Board in the Decision, applicants presently cancel claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21, 23-28, 30-38, 42-49, 51, 53-58, and 60-72. Accordingly, applicants submit that the rejections of claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21, 23-28, 30-38, 42-49, 51, 53-58, and 60-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot.

New claims

Applicants presently add claims 73-117. Without conceding any rejection of claims 73-117 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103, in an effort to advance prosecution of the present application, applicants below discuss new claims 73-117 in light of Howard. For the reasons that follow, applicants submit that claims 73-117 are patentably defined over Howard.

Claim 73 is directed to a method which comprises “receiving, at a print server, a request message from a printer, wherein the printer is at a location remote from the print server,” “determining, by the print server, that the request message does not include an identifier associated with a print queue in the print server,” “assigning, by the print server, an identifier to the printer,” “associating, by the print server, the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server,” and “transmitting the assigned registration printer identifier from the server to the device.” In the Decision, the Board found that:

3. Howard discloses that by “receiving a device identification string or ‘device idstring’, the host system 20 recognizes that the external device 30 is integrated with the host system 20 so that the external device 30 may properly receive instructions and applications from the host system 20.” (Col. 4 ll. 15-19).
4. Howard discloses making a record of the device idstring in a registry database, where software “installer 22 reads a device idstring from the external device 30. By referencing the device idstring, the installer 22 writes identifier keys into the identifier key array 25 of the registry 24.” (Col. 8 ll. 18-21).

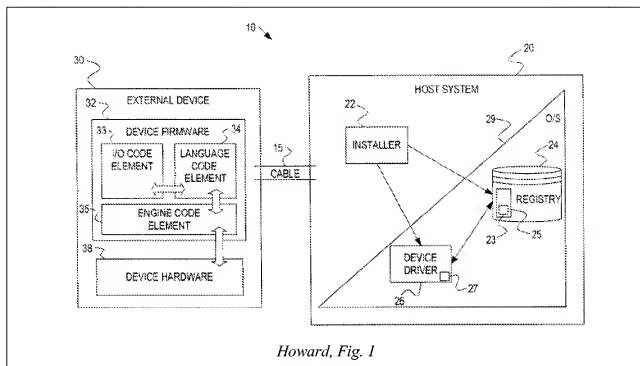
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6. Howard discloses that connecting a device to a system initiates the registration process, because:

Preferably, instructions travel from the device hardware 38 through the engine code element 35 across the language code element 34 to the i/o code element 33. In this manner, a device idstring is sent from the device firmware 32 of each external device 30 that is connected with the host system 20.

(Col. 5 ll. 1-6).

Decision, pages 3-4 (emphases added). The references numbers in the Board’s findings are depicted in Howard’s Fig. 1 which is reproduced below for convenience. As emphasized in the Board’s findings, Howard describes that host system 20 “receiv[es] a device identification string or ‘device idstring’,” that “installer 22 reads a device idstring from the external device 30,” and that “a device idstring is sent from...each external device 30 that is connected with the host



system 20.” Howard, col. 4 lines 15-19, col. 8 lines 18-21, and col. 5 lines 1-6. While Howard may describe that a host device 20 receives a device idstring from an external device 30, Howard does not teach or suggest (1) that host device 20 determines that a message from external device 30 that does not include a device idstring, (2) that host device 20 assigns a device idstring to external device 30, or (3) that host device 20 associates a device idstring with a print queue. Thus, applicants submit that Howard fails to teach or suggest “receiving, at a print server, a request message from a printer, wherein the printer is at a location remote from the print server,” “assigning, by the print server, an identifier to the printer,” or “associating, by the print server, the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server,” as recited by claim 73. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 73 is patentably defined over Howard.

Claim 82 is directed to “[a] computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon.” The instructions recited in claim 82 comprise “instructions to receive, at a print server, a request message from a printer, wherein the printer is at a location remote from the print server,” “instructions to assign, by the print server, an identifier to the printer,” and “instructions to associate, by the print server, the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server.”

For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 73, applicants submit that Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 82. Inasmuch as Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 82, applicants submit that claim 82 is patentably defined over Howard.

Claim 91 is directed to a system which comprises one or more controllers which are configured to “receive a request message from the printer,” “assign an identifier to the printer,” and “associate the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server.” For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 73, applicants submit that Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 91. Inasmuch as Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 91, applicants submit that claim 91 is patentably defined over Howard.

Claim 100 is directed to a method which comprises “transmitting, in response to receiving the user input, a request message from the printer to a printer server, wherein the print server is configured to determine that the request message does not include an identifier associated with a print queue in the print server, to assign an identifier to the printer, and to associate the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server,” and “receiving, at the printer from the print server, the assigned identifier.” For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 73, applicants submit that Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 100. Inasmuch as Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 100, applicants submit that claim 100 is patentably defined over Howard.

Claim 106 is directed to “[a] computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon.” The instructions recited in claim 106 comprise “instructions to transmit, in response to receiving the user input, a request message from the printer to a printer server, wherein the print server is configured to determine that the request message does not include an identifier associated with a print queue in the print server, to assign an identifier to the printer, and to associate the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server,” and “instructions to receive, at the printer from the print server, the assigned identifier.” For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 73, applicants submit that Howard fails to teach or suggest

these recitations of claim 106. Inasmuch as Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 106, applicants submit that claim 106 is patentably defined over Howard.

Claim 112 is directed to a printer which comprises one or more controllers which are configured to “transmit, in response to receiving the user input, a request message from the printer to a printer server, wherein the print server is configured to determine that the request message does not include an identifier associated with a print queue in the print server, to assign an identifier to the printer, and to associate the assigned identifier with a print queue in the print server,” and “receive, at the printer from the print server, the assigned identifier.” For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 73, applicants submit that Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 112. Inasmuch as Howard fails to teach or suggest these recitations of claim 112, applicants submit that claim 112 is patentably defined over Howard.

Claims 74-81, 83-90, 92-99, 101-105, 107-111, and 113-117 depend, directly or indirectly from claims 73, 82, 91, 100, 106, and 112. Inasmuch as claims 74-81, 83-90, 92-99, 101-105, 107-111, and 113-117 depend from claims which are patentably defined over Howard, applicants submit that claims 74-81, 83-90, 92-99, 101-105, 107-111, and 113-117 are also patentably defined over Howard.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present remarks are responsive to each of the points raised by the examiner in the Office Action, and submit that claims 73-117 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the examiner’s earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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